

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 DOTE-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 IO-13

SCSE-00 SCA-01 H-03 RSR-01 /078 W

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R 271739Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8531

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL AMSTERDAM

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 4886

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN BE

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - STRANDEES

REF: STATE 166119

1. WE CONTINUED TO HAVE STRANDEE PROBLEM OVER PAST WEEKEND. THIS TIME STRANDEES WERE LARGELY FROM GREAT LAKES AREA, NUMBERING APPROXIMATELY 80 PHYSICALLY PRESENT AT OSTENDE OR BRUSSELS. IN ADDITION NUMBER TELEPHONED POMAIR AND ARE APPARENTLY IN AREA OR EXPECTING ARRIVE IN NEXT FEW DAYS.

2. BELGIAN CHARTER CARRIER POMAIR HAD TWO DLIGHT SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 25 (LOS ANGELES AND FREEPORT, BAHAMAS). BOTH FLIGHTS WERE SCHEDULED FOR TECHNICAL STOPS AT BANGOR, MAINE AND HAD EXTRA SEATS WHICH POMAIR (WITH PERMISSION CAB) INTENDED TO USE FOR ABOVE MENTIONED STRANDEES. AS RESULT OF SNAFU HOWEVER, ONLY PLUS OR MINUS THIRTY DEPARTED ON LOS ANGELES FLIGHT WHICH LEFT BRUSSELS AIRPORT AT 0400 HOURS AUGUST 26.

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THIS LEFT APPROXIMATELY 24 IN BRUSSELS WHO WERE TRANSPORTED

BY BUS TO OSTENDE TO JOIN 20 ALREADY THERE.

3. POMAIR FLIGHT AUGUST 27 TO NIAGARA FALLS DEPARTED AT 1230 HOURS, CARRYING 168 MEMBERS "SEND THE LIGHT" ORGANIZATION PLUS 17 STRANDEES OF THOSE MENTIONED PARA (2).

4. NEXT POMAIR FLIGHT IS SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 29 FOR DEWALD TRAVEL OF WARREN, MICHIGAN. POMAIR DOES NOT RPT NOT KNOW HOW MANY PASSENGERS WILL SHOW UP ALTHOUGH MANIFEST SHOWS 154 PASSENGERS. MEANWHILE POMAIR HAS WAITING LIST (COMPOSED OF THOSE AT OSTENDE AIRPORT OR WHO HAVE CALLED IN) OF 140 SOME OF WHOM PRESUMABLY ARE ON DEWALD TRAVEL MANIFEST. POSSESSORS OF POMAIR TICKETS (DEWALD AND OTHERS) CONTINUE TO TRICKLE INTO OSTENDE. NEXT FOLLOWING POMAIR FLIGHT IS SEPTEMBER 1 TO FREEPORT, BAHAMAS.

5. WE EXPECT SITUATION TO CONTINUE CONFUSED AND DETERIORATE AS LABOR DAY APPROACHES. IT IS CLEAR THAT POMAIR HAS NO IDEA OF NUMBER OF POTENTIAL TRAVELERS CARRYING POMAIR RETURN TICKETS WILL APPEAR DEMANDING TRANSPORT.

6. ONLY BRIGHT SPOT IN PICTURE IS THAT NUMBER OF POTENTIAL TRAVELERS CARRYING "VOUCHERS" OR OTHER FORMS OF DUCUMENTATION WHICH POMAIR REFUSES TO ACCEPT HAS DECLINED MARKEDLY. AS PROMISED TO CAB (REFTEL) POMAIR IS ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITY, INCLUDING ROOM AND BOARD, FOR "BONA FIDE" POMAIR TRAVELERS. HOWEVER, THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT POMAIR BECOMING SERIOUSLY UNHAPPY ABOUT SCOPE OF PROBLEM OF RESPONSIBILITY. POMAIR GENMANAGER DUMORTIER THINKING ABOUT JOINING AUGUST 29 FLIGHT IN ORDER DISCUSS PROBLEM WITH CAB IN WASHINGTON.

7. WE SHALL KEEP DEPARTMENT FULLY INFORMED AS SITUATION UNFOLDS.
CROWLEY

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